

When Mr. MORAN, Mr. BURTON, and Mr. SPRATT and I introduced a new bill in this Congress, 4 Republicans and 25 Democrats joined us.

When a similar proposal was offered by Senator CONRAD in June as an amendment to the Senate counterpart to H.R. 1555, it received the support of 32 Republicans and 41 Democrats, passing 73–26.

On July 10, the President of the United States endorsed this approach, calling the V-chip “a little thing but a big deal”.

And as you know, the letter we delivered today includes 19 Republicans and 23 Democrats.

So this is a subject of intense interest receiving broad support from both parties.

It is supported by huge majority of the American public, with some polls and reader surveys putting support as high as 90 percent.

Mr. Chairman, its time has come.

The average American child has seen 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence by the time he or she leaves elementary school.

Parents know what's going on. I have held five hearings over the last 2 years on the subject of children and televised violence. In every hearing I have heard both compelling testimony about the harmful effects of negative television on young children, and about the efforts of industry to reduce gratuitous violence. But parents don't care whether the violence is gratuitous or not. When you have young children in your home, you want to reduce all violence to a minimum.

That's why parents are not impressed with the temporary promises of broadcast executives to do better. Parents know that the good deeds of one are quickly undermined by the bad deeds of another.

The pattern is familiar. Parents plea for help in coping with the sheer volume and escalating graphics of TV violence and sexual material. Congress expresses concern. The industry screams first amendment. The press says they're both right, calling on Congress to hold off and calling on industry to tone things down.

Meanwhile, parents get no help.

Until parents actually have the power to manage their own TV sets using blocking technology, parents will remain dependent on the values and programming choices of executives in Los Angeles and New York who, after all, are trying to maximize viewership, not meet the needs of parents.

Mr. Chairman, here is what the amendment would do:

First, we will give the industry a year to develop a ratings system and activate blocking technology on a voluntary basis. If they fail to act, then the legislation will require the FCC to:

First, form an advisory committee, including parents and industry, to develop a ratings system to give parents advance warning of material that might be harmful to children; Please note that the government does not do the ratings.

Second, require that any ratings implemented by a broadcaster be transmitted to TV receivers, and

Third, require TV set manufacturers to include blocking technology in new TV sets so that parents can block programs that are rated, of block programs by time or by program.

We want both the House and the Senate on record as favoring this simple, first amend-

ment friendly, parent-friendly, child-friendly solution to this ongoing problem.

You will hear arguments from some that this technological way of dealing with the problem of TV violence is akin to Big Brother. It's exactly the opposite. It's more like Big Mother and Big Father. Parents take control.

And we know this technology works. In this country, the Electronics Industries Association has already developed standards for it. In Canada, a test in homes in Edmonton proved that it works and works well.

This is not a panacea. It will take some time for enough new sets to be purchased to have an impact on the Nielsen ratings and, therefore, an impact on advertisers. But its introduction in the cable world through set-top boxes is likely to be much more rapid. The cable industry has said that it is prepared to move forward with a V-chip approach as long as broadcasters move forward as well.

And the Electronic Industries Association has already agreed to introduce the technology into sets that would allow up to four levels of violence or sexual material to be rated.

Only the broadcasters have remained adamant in their opposition. They are opposed because the V-chip will work so well, not because it won't work. It will take only a small number of parents in key demographic groups using the V-chip to test the willingness of advertisers to support violent programming.

Parents will have the capacity to customize their own sets—to create their own private safe harbor—to protect their own children as they see fit.

I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Stokes/Boehlert amendment.

The VA–HUD bill drives a stake through the heart of our Nation's environmental laws. The new majority apparently doesn't think cutting EPA's budget by 34 percent is enough—they've weighed the bill down with restrictions on EPA spending which ties their hands in implementing and enforcing critically important programs for the protection of the American people.

The riders on the bill would prohibit EPA from spending any money on programs which protect wetlands, control polluted runoff, prevent raw sewage from being discharged into our waters, implement the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, and then proceed with new

standards for arsenic and radioactive pollutants in our drinking water.

Mr. Chairman, more than 35 million people would be exposed to significant levels of arsenic in their drinking water, heightening cancer risks across our Nation.

And while the republicans are proposing that EPA's ability to protect the health of American citizens be decimated, they are giving special favors and granting exemptions to environmental laws to their friends in the oil and gas industry and cement kiln operators.

The Stokes/Boehlert amendment strips the appropriations bill of these legislative riders and enables the EPA, with the limited resources it has left, to implement the laws that the American people want, need and support which protect their air, water, and overall health.

I thank the gentlemen for offering this amendment and urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LONG BEACH POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 31, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the 100th anniversary of Long Beach Polytechnic High School—a much-loved, venerable institution in Long Beach, CA, which has been producing scholars and champions for the past century.

Poly high, as it is affectionately known, had humble beginnings in the chapel of a local church, but a strong—for the time—starting enrollment. At that time, 1895, Long Beach was a modest village of approximately 2,000 residents. The Federal census counted 2,252 in 1900. Though small in number, these early citizens saw learning as a large part of their children's lives. The first school had begun in 1885, with under a dozen students in a tent loaned by the local postmaster, when the community numbered 12 families. Ten years later, with over 100 elementary school students studying in their own building, an election was held on September 3, 1895, to determine whether a high school district should be formed in Long Beach. The vote in favor was unanimous. Two weeks later—in an era when education beyond the eighth grade was not the norm—43 9th, 10th, and 11th graders began classes with a faculty of two: Professor Walter Bailey and Mrs. Hattie Mason Willard.

Three years later, in 1898, the community's strong desire for a high school education for one and all supported the opening of a separate high school building—the first in Los Angeles County outside of the city of Los Angeles. They even levied a special tax on themselves to raise the \$10,000 to cover the city's part of the construction costs.

The new high school was known as American Avenue High School for its location and offered a strong, but limited program primarily aimed at preparing students for college. The quality of instruction was so high that 6 years after opening its doors, the high school was accredited by the University of California, thus permitting its graduates to enter the university without passing special examinations.